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WEATHER, p. 2 WED: 54°F | 44°F Mostly cloudy THUR: 60°F | 50°F Partly cloudy

Volume 132, Number 22 Tuesday, May 1, 2012



Yuri Lin G and Esther Jang sing the Pokémon theme song to kick off the Toons' farewell concert for their graduating seniors in 10-250 last Saturday.

Occupy enthralls world of academia

Social scientists study protests through survey data, oral history

By Jennifer Schuessler

If surveys of Occupy Wall Street supporters conducted in the fall still hold true, the crowds of protesters expected to turn out Tuesday for May Day events across the country will likely skew male, young, white, college-educated, underpaid and thoroughly disgusted with the

U.S. political system. But the crowds may also be notably heavy on another demographic cohort: notebook-wielding social scientists hoping to get a more precise understanding of the nebulously organized individuals marching under the banner 'We are the 99 percent."

Academics across the country have embraced the movement since it emerged in September, organizing classes, publishing reams of commentary and issuing calls to "occupy" not just Wall Street but also sociology, anthropology, history, philosophy or the entire "academic vampire squid" itself, as a poster for a session at the recent annual meeting of the International Studies Association put it.

A smaller number have also been

turning to a more difficult task: turning a sprawling movement into hard - and publishable — data.

'This thing just erupted so quickly," said Alex S. Vitale, a sociologist at Brooklyn College who studies the policing of demonstrations. "It's almost overwhelming to deal with all the information that's out there."

Vitale is finishing a 10-city study of interactions between protesters and the police since fall, which he said showed a lack of overall "militarization" in po-

Occupy, Page 6

4.75% increase in grad stipend

Ten month collaboration between GSC and Institute

By Derek Chang

Graduate stipends will be increasing by 4.75 percent for the 2012-2013 school year. The recommended yearly stipend for research assistants will be \$30,888 at the doctoral level, and \$28,236 at the Master's level. Graduate teaching assistants will receive \$31,644.

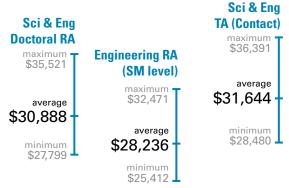
The Graduate Student Council (GSC) prepares a cost-ofliving survey every four years, in collaboration with the Office of the Dean for Graduate Education (ODGE). A survey about cost-of-living expenses was sent out to graduate students in November 2011 with a 53 percent response rate. The GSC's Housing and Community Affairs (HCA) Cost of Living subcommittee then compared the results with inflation statistics to forecast necessary stipends for graduate students.

"Our goal is for stipend increases to match inflation, so that purchasing power stays constant," said Brian Spatocco G. President-Elect of the GSC and co-chair of the HCA Cost of Living team. Spatocco also noted that the amount of work done to achieve this was "equivalent to an entire Master's thesis."

The results of the survey showed that the "buckets," or areas of expenditure, with the biggest cost of living increases were transportation (8.98 percent), utilities (7.5 percent), and off-campus rent (7.5 percent). On-campus housing rates increased 3.5 percent this year. Rent inflation was high this year

Grad stipend, Page 10

2013 annual graduate student stipend



IN SHORT

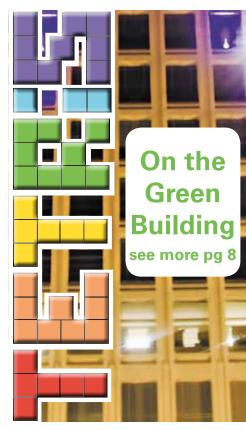
Pre-registration for summer and fall 2012 classes opens today at 9 a.m. The deadline to preregister is May 31, but pre-register for fall classes by May 30 to avoid paying a \$50 late fee!

The results of the summer housing lottery come out today! The deadline to cancel the assignment is May 11, 2012, or pay a \$200 fine.

The deadline to apply to the MIT Founders' Skills Accelerator is Wednesday, May 2. Apply at http:// entrepreneurship.mit.edu/fsa to work on your startup this summer!

Course 3 Professor Craig Carter won first place in APO's annual Big Screw Competition. He raised a total of \$164.20 for Camp Kesem. Overall, the fundraiser raised roughly \$550.

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.







and Irene Ferri.

Tosci's plans to debut a Nyan Cat flavor this weekend, based on last year's Internet meme, in honor of ROFLcon. It will consist of "pieces of cherry Pop Tart in a coconut sorbet, with brightly colored anise candies called Mukhwas," Rancatore said. "Mukhwas are the small candies Indian restaurants offer to departing diners."

THE INSTITUTE **NEEDS OVERSIGHT**

How the Corporation is failing us, and how to fix it. OPINION, p. 5

REFLECTIONS ON A RALLY

Impressions from the women's rights rally by City Hall. OPINION, p. 4

MEN'S TENNIS WINS

The team is on track to defend their NEWMAC title. SPORTS, p. 15



THE SLEEPOMETER

Just how tired are you during class? FUN, p. 12

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A beginner's guide

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European stocks drift lower on Spanish recession

PARIS — Stocks fell modestly in Europe on Monday, after confirmation that Spain had slumped back into recession in the first three months of 2012. The Spanish economy contracted by 0.3 percent in the January-March quarter, the same rate of contraction as in the last quarter of 2011, the National Statistics Institute said in Madrid

In morning trading, the Euro Stoxx 50 index, which groups eurozone blue-chip shares, fell 0.5 percent. The FTSE-100 index in London was down 0.2 percent. Standard & Poor's 500 index futures ticked upward, suggesting Wall Street would open with a modest rise. The S&P 500 rose just over 0.2 percent Friday.

The Spanish economic news was not quite as bad as anticipated — a Reuters poll had found a market consensus for a quarterly contraction of around 0.4 percent. Compared with the first quarter a year earlier, the Spanish economy shrank by 0.4 percent.

—David Jolly, The New York Times

For Wal-Mart, accusations test good-citizen relationships

WASHINGTON — Besides its success in selling goods that range from groceries to televisions, Wal-Mart has also shown a highly developed ability to sell itself.

The country's biggest retailer has adroitly used millions of dollars in campaign contributions, charity drives, lobbying campaigns, and its work for popular causes like childhood nutrition and lower carbon emissions to build support in Congress and the White House

It also uses these methods to increase its "favorable" ratings, especially with liberals. And as Wal-Mart's top lobbyist explained to investors in 2010, the company thinks the strategy has worked.

"Across the board, our reputation with elected officials is improved, not only here in the U.S. but around the world," the lobbyist, Leslie Dach, boasted as he ticked off poll numbers that he said demonstrated the company's improving public profile. That popularity, he said, "makes it easier for us to stay out of the public limelight when we don't want to be there."

-Eric Lichtblau, The New York Times

Software engineer identified in Google project scandal

At the center of the uproar over a Google project that scooped up personal data from potentially millions of unsuspecting people is the company software engineer who wrote the code.

Google has declined to identify the engineer, as has the Federal Communications Commission. The FCC recently closed its 17-month inquiry into the project, Street View, with a finding that Google broke no laws but had obstructed its investigation.

The agency also said it was unable to resolve all the issues it was considering because the engineer — whom it referred to in its report on the inquiry as Engineer Doe — cited his Fifth Amendment right and declined to talk.

Now a former state investigator involved in another inquiry into Street View has identified Engineer Doe. The former investigator said he was Marius Milner, a programmer with a background in telecommunications who is highly regarded in the field of Wi-Fi networking, essential to the project.

On his LinkedIn page, Milner lists his occupation as "hacker," and under the category called "Specialties," his entry reads, "I know more than I want to about Wi-Fi."

The former state investigator spoke on the condition that he not be identified because he was not authorized to speak about the matter. Although the FCC declined to identify the engineer, a footnote in the full text of its report said Google told the agency the identity of Engineer Doe "only because it had disclosed his name to state investigators on December 17, 2010."

Google declined to comment.

—Steve Lohr and David Streitfeld, The New York Times

Obama's top counterterrorism adviser defends drone strikes

By Charlie Savage
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration on Monday offered its first extensive explanation of how U.S. officials decide when to use drones to kill suspected terrorists — a tactic that the government often treats as a classified secret even though it is widely known around the world.

"Yes, in full accordance with the law — and in order to prevent terrorist attacks on the United States and to save American lives — the United States government conducts targeted strikes against specific al-Qaida terrorists, sometimes using remotely piloted aircraft, often referred to publicly as drones," John O. Brennan, President Barack Obama's top counterterrorism adviser, said before the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

The use of armed drones to strike at suspected militants in places like Pakistan and Yemen has grown dramatically under the Obama administration, and the emergence of the new technology — which has sharply reduced the cost and risk of warfare to its operators, making it easier to engage in sporadic combat in farflung regions — has led to growing concerns both about civilian casualties and about a future in which other countries also acquire drones.

The U.S. government has been reluctant to talk openly about its use of drones, apparently in part because foreign governments that granted permission for strikes did so on the condition that the deals would remain secret.

Defending drone strikes as "legal, ethical, and wise," Brennan said the president had directed officials to be more open about how they "carefully, deliberately and responsibly" decide to kill terrorism suspects — including what he described as "the rigorous standards and process of review to which we hold ourselves today when considering and authorizing strikes against a specific member of al-Qaida outside the hot battlefield of Afghanistan."

Merely being a member of al-Qaida or one of its allies is not enough to be targeted, Brennan said, because that describes many thousands of people. Rather, policymakers approve the killing of only those who pose a particular threat, he said, like operational leaders who are planning attacks against U.S. interests, lower-level militants training for such an attack, and those who possess "unique operational skills that are being leveraged in a planned attack."

Brennan also said the administration preferred capturing such suspects alive — usually by telling a foreign government where to arrest them — and would authorize a strike only if that was not feasible.

"We only authorize a particular operation against a specific individual if we have a high degree of confidence that the individual being targeted is indeed the terrorist we are pursuing," he said. "This is a very high bar. Of course, how we identify an individual naturally involves intelligence sources and methods, which I will not discuss."

Dispute over tiny island in Persian Gulf unites Iran

By Thomas Erdbrink

THE NEW YORK TIMES

TEHRAN — For Iranians, whose country's borders have shrunk in the past 200 years after wars and unfavorable deals by corrupt shahs, territorial issues are a delicate matter. So a renewed claim by the United Arab Emirates to the tiny island of Abu Musa in the Persian Gulf has touched a raw nerve.

But many here say that may just be the point.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and his reactionary agenda tend to be unpopular among the urban middle classes, but he is enjoying a rare surge of support even in those inhospitable quarters in the growing dispute with Iran's Persian Gulf neighbors—one that he touched off by making a surprise visit to the island last month, a first by an Iranian president.

Other Iranian politicians have rushed to embrace the controversy, aware of how it is playing at home.

A parliamentary delegation made a high-profile visit to the island Sunday to observe Iran's National Day of the Persian Gulf, a normally low-key event, which seems bound to further inflame the issue. Other legislators have called for the establishment of a Persian Gulf province, and want the Tehran street that the United Arab Emirates Embassy is on renamed Abu Musa.

For many Iranians, the dispute over Abu Musa, a 4-square-mile spit of sand with about 2,000 inhabitants and surrounded by pristine blue waters, arouses strong nationalistic feelings at a time of general hopelessness over the devastating impact of a grinding economy, foreign sanctions and a feeling of unprecedented isolation.

To that extent, it mirrors Iran's nuclear program, which has also whipped up nationalistic emotions that Ahmadinejad has used to build support for the government.

"We Iranians continuously fight and disagree like a husband and wife during a nasty divorce," Somaye Allahdad, 35, a Tehran homemaker who does not always agree with Ahmadinejad's policies, said over a family lunch of traditional lamb kebab and sabzi, a sort of herbal stew. "But when someone tries to take away our child, we team up and face the threat."

Ahmadinejad's visit to Abu Musa, where he spoke to an audience of sun-tanned Iranian fishermen, prompted angry reactions from Arab states on the western shore of the Persian Gulf, which rejected his assertion that the island is occupied by Iran. That, too, may have been part of the plan, some Iranians believe.

WEATHER

Rainfall to help alleviate drought conditions soon

By Vince Agard

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

The Boston and Cambridge areas will experience a soaking, day-long rainstorm today as a low pressure system moves in from the west and eventually heads out to sea. While the storm will make for rather cold and dreary conditions for those out and about today, it will also bring some much-needed precipitation to an area that has received an abnormally low amount of rain so far this spring.

As of yesterday, the Boston area had been running a precipitation deficit of 6.58 inches from climatological normals since the beginning of the year. Furthermore, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's U.S. Drought Monitor, 84% of the state of Massachusetts was experiencing moderate to severe drought as of April 24th. Today's storm should bring an additional 0.5 to 1 inches of rain to our area, so drought conditions are likely to persist, although their severity should be lessened.

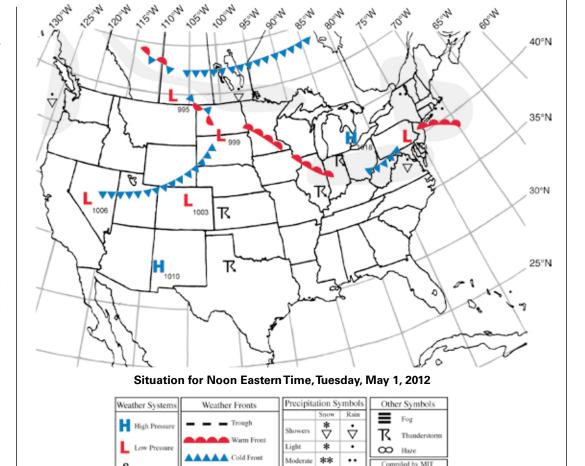
Extended Forecast

Today: Rain, high 49°F (9°C). Wind S at 10-15 mph, gusting to 20 mph.

Tonight: Cloudy with rain ending, low 44°F (7°C). Wind NE at 10-12 mph.

Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy, high 54°F (12°C). Wind NE at 5-10 mph becoming E

Thursday: Partly cloudy, high near 60°F (16°C).



Antagonists in Syria accuse each other of subverting truce

By Neil MacFarquhar and Hwaida Saad

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIRUT - Syria's official media reported a series of attacks against government buildings Monday, including two bombings that targeted two key security headquarters in the northern city of Idlib and a small rocket assault on the Central Bank in downtown

Such assaults, along with what activists described as a major security sweep through the restive Damascus suburb of Douma, underscored that a U.N. cease-fire imposed less than three weeks ago existed more in name than in fact.

The government and the opposition blamed each other for the assaults, with mutual accusations of subverting the U.N. peace plan.

They also published divergent tolls, with the government media putting the count from Idlib at nine dead, many of them civilians, and 100 wounded. The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 20 people had

died, most in the security services. It said the two buildings targeted had housed the local branches of the army and the air force intelligence, two pillars of the police state and widely despised by opponents of the regime.

In Idlib, a housewife living in a residential neighborhood adjacent to the security headquarters said that just after dawn prayers she heard a loud blast and her building started to shake, damaging some windows and scaring her four children. She ran outside to survey the damage, she said, speaking on a regular phone line to Beirut but requesting anonymity for her own safety.

"Words cannot describe the scene, it was shocking," she said, with many buildings and cars on the surrounding streets damaged.

Photographs from the scene showed a roughly six-story building with its facade torn off, the floors dangling one on top of the other in a cascade of broken concrete and twisted support rods. A fine layer of dust covered a wide area, with small pools of blood and

a large crater in one road.

The government said two suicide bombers carried out the Idlib blasts in what it called terrorist attacks, which came within minutes of each other. The opposition said the government had staged the attacks and had blamed them on jihadi networks to convince U.N. monitors that the opposition was responsible for sabotaging the cease-fire in place since April 12.

Syria's state-run television showed outraged citizens in the vicinity of the bombings or in the hospital repeating a standard government line.

"Is this the freedom they want?" said one woman near a group of wounded men lying on stretchers. "They want death. This is the murder of innocent people.'

But activists wondered how anyone wanting to attack government buildings at the center of Idlib could have approached them, since the military had turned the administrative center at the heart of the city into an armed camp after the uprising gathered momentum last year.

Loyalist soldiers in Mali appear to seek countercoup

By Adam Nossiter

BAMAKO, Mali — Gunfire rang out over this West African capital Monday night as soldiers loval to the president who was deposed in a coup in March appeared to be attempting a countercoup against the ruling military junta.

Shots could be heard coming from the Djicoroni paratrooper camp, where many of the loyalists troops who support Amadou Toumani Toure, the ousted leader, are based. Junta troops had blocked off the roads leading to the paratrooper base, and were ordering motorists and pedestrians back at

A junta soldier, running from the scene, yelled, "The camp paratroops are attacking us." He was heard calling for reinforcements on his phone. Witnesses near the base, close to the U.S. Embassy here, said they had seen well-armed soldiers in armored vehicles driving past.

Elsewhere in Bamako, gunfire was reported around the area of the state broadcaster, a critical position, and the national television station failed to broadcast its regular news program.

The city's international airport also appeared to be under attack. "The airport is being evacuated," said Tieman Coulibaly, president of a handling company that works at the airport and a leading opposition figure. "The Red Berets are trying to take it," he said, referring to the loyalist troops.

Fighting was also reported at Kati, the garrison village at the edge of Bamako where the military junta and its troops are based. "The soldiers told us to stay inside, and they are all in the streets now, said Sidiki Keita, a resident. "All the streets are occupied by the Green Berets" — the junta troops — "and they are looking for the Red Berets."

Several junta spokesmen, reached by phone, refused to confirm that a countercoup was under way, underscoring the uncertain nature of the events. "There are confused reports that it was an attempt by the presidential guard to take back some parts of the city," a diplomat in Bamako said Monday

Asked if a countercoup was unfolding in the city, a junta spokesman, Lt. Boubacar Coulibaly, said only: "This is what I have heard. I don't have proof for now." A highranking member of the junta, Capt. Adama Diarra, when asked the same question, said: "It's false, it's false! Now let me get back to work!" before hanging up the phone.

The junta seized power on March 22, overthrowing the democratically elected president and ending more than 20 years of democracy in this parched and baking land straddling the Sahara Desert, Shortly afterward a rebel movement of Islamists and nomadic fighters took control of the country's north, splitting Mali in

Malaysian police to investigate violence at protest supporting free elections

By Liz Gooch

THE NEW YORK TIMES

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia -Malaysian police pledged Monday to investigate violence at a rally supporting free elections that spiraled out of control when protesters broke through barricades in central Kuala Lumpur.

The inspector general of police, Ismail Omar, quoted by The Star newspaper, said, "We acted with full restraint for several hours and only took action to disperse the crowds after the barricades were breached."

He added, "We take all these complaints seriously and will thoroughly investigate."

Police fired tear gas and water cannons at thousands of demonstrators who had gathered in the streets around Independence Square, in one of the largest protests in Malaysia in years.

Protesters, photographers and

journalists have complained that they were beaten by police officers during the rally and rights groups have condemned the authorities' response as excessive.

More than 500 people were arrested during the demonstration, which was organized by the Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections, a group of 84 organizations calling for major reforms to the country's election system. Police have since released all those arrested.

Although the government has pledged to introduce reforms to the election system, the group, known as Bersih — which means "clean" in Malay - argues that these measures will not be enough to ensure that the next polls, widely expected to be held in June, are conducted

Police estimated that 40,000 to 50,000 people attended the protest Saturday, but Bersih organizers put the number at 250,000.

Prime Minister Najib Razak

said late Sunday that police would investigate any excessive action taken against members of the public, including media personnel, according to a report by Bernama, the national news agency.

He said police would release video footage of the rally to prevent people from exploiting incidents to try to win support and influence the public, the report said.

"It's important for the police to show what actually happened," Najib was quoted as saying. "Police will not cover up anything, including if there was misconduct on the part of their own personnel."

The rally was peaceful until a group of protesters broke through the barriers, prompting police to fire tear gas and water cannons.

Protesters threw shoes, bottles, and chairs while trying to break through the barricades, Bloomberg News reported. Other news reports said demonstrators overturned a

Senators reject claim that torture helped hunt for Bin Laden

WASHINGTON — Democratic senators who lead the intelligence and armed services committees took issue Monday with claims from Bush administration officials that the Central Intelligence Agency's coercive interrogation methods produced information that led to the killing of Osama bin Laden a year ago.

The statement from Sens. Dianne Feinstein of California, chairwoman of the Select Committee on Intelligence, and Carl Levin of Michigan, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, called the notion that the so-called enhanced interrogation methods helped the CIA find bin Laden by identifying his courier "misguided and

"Instead, the CIA learned of the existence of the courier, his true name and location through means unrelated to the CIA detention and interrogation program," the statement said, without elaborating. The senators said their conclusions were based on a three-year study of the agency's interrogation program by the intelligence committee staff that is nearing completion but remains secret.

–Scott Shane, The New York Times

Three children killed in crossfire between Taliban and US

KABUL, Afghanistan - Three children were killed and three wounded in crossfire Monday when Taliban insurgents attacked a team of U.S. soldiers in southern Afghanistan, Afghan officials said.

The U.S. soldiers were meeting with residents in the Shajoe district of Zabul province. Muhammad Jan Rasoolyaar, the deputy governor of Zabul, said that the Afghan Local Police and the Americans were present at a shura, or meeting of tribal leaders, in hopes of persuading the community to form its own police unit. Many children had gathered around the soldiers when the insurgents attacked, he said.

"It is too early to say who is to blame," Rasoolyaar said, adding that another shura had been convened to examine what had happened.

But a spokesman for the U.S. military, James Graybeal, accused the Taliban of deliberately targeting the children.

"What it sounds like is that during the firefight, the insurgents turned their weapons on the civilians," he said.

He added that there were no U.S. casualties.

–Rod Nordland and Taimoor Shah, The New York Times

Delta Air Lines to buy refinery to save on jet fuel

Delta Air Lines said Monday that it had agreed to buy a refinery near Philadelphia from ConocoPhillips to offset the risk of higher jet fuel prices.

Delta said that it would spend \$150 million to acquire the Trainer refinery, and spend \$100 million to refurbish the plant to increase its output of jet fuel. The airline said it would receive \$30 million from the state of Pennsylvania as part of a deal to support

Richard Anderson, Delta's chief executive, said the investment was a "modest" one, equivalent to the list price of a new wide-body plane. The company estimated that it would reduce its annual fuel expense by \$300 million, once the modifications to the refinery are completed. To achieve similar fuel savings, Delta would have to buy 60 new generation narrowbody planes, a capital investment of \$2.5 billion, according to a regulatory filing.

Delta said it had also struck a three-year agreement with BP to supply crude oil to the refinery. As part of the deal, the details of which were not released, Delta will exchange gasoline, diesel and other petroleum products produced at the refinery with jet fuel from other sources from BP and Phillips 66.

Combined with the jet fuel produced at Trainer, Delta said these deals would provide 80 percent of its jet fuel needs in the

-Jad Mouawad, The New York Times

Microsoft to take stake in Nook unit from Barnes & Noble

Microsoft announced on Monday that it would invest \$300 million in Barnes & Noble's Nook division for a 17.6 percent stake. The deal values the e-reader business at \$1.7 billion.

The move by Microsoft will help bolster the standing of Barnes & Noble's fastest-growing unit. The bookstore giant had said earlier ear that it was exploring strategic options for the busines cluding a potential divestiture or strategic partnership.

The company has wagered heavily on the Nook, whose e-readers and tablets compete against Amazon's best-selling Kindle devices in the hotly contested world of electronic books.

—Michael J. De La Merced and Julie Bosman, The New York Times

Court overturns Britain's lifetime Olympic bans

The British Olympics Association's lifetime Olympic ban for serious doping offenders was deemed invalid Monday by the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

The court, which is sport's highest court, said barring British athletes from the games because they had previously doped did not comply with the World Anti-Doping Code. It said the rule unjustly penalized an athlete twice for the same offense.

The decision paves the way for athletes like sprinter Dwain Chambers and cyclist David Millar to seek spots on the British Olympic team for the London Games in the summer.

Chambers, who is Britain's best 100-meter runner, in 2003 tested positive for THG, an undetectable steroid, and served a twoyear ban. Millar, one of Britain's best road cyclists, admitted using EPO and was barred in 2004 for two years. He has since been one of his sport's leading anti-doping advocates.

The court added that its decision did not preclude the World Anti-Doping Agency from including a lifetime Olympic ban for dopers in future versions of the organization's anti-doping code.

-Juliet Macur, The New York Times



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Notes from a women's rights rally

Thoughts after attending a City Hall rally for abortion rights

By Mike Veldman STAFF COLUMNIST

Last Saturday, a rally was held at City Hall to protest the nationwide uptick in proposed and codified restrictions on access to abortion and contraception. The feeling shared by many women's rights advocates is that the nationwide pro-life movement has become bolder, more extremist and, worst of all, more successful as of late. I attended the rally, one of many coordinated in cities throughout the country, and my reflections follow.

Not enough people are aware of what is happening. Not only is there a concerted effort by anti-abortion activists to end access to abortion entirely, but there is a strain of increasingly emboldened misogyny present in the national discourse. In Georgia, during debate on a bill to ban abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy, state Representative Terry England ostensibly argued that since women were comparable to the cows and pigs on his farm, animals for whom he has had to deliver dead offspring, women should not be able to abort stillborn fetuses after 20 weeks.

And on his national radio program, Rush Limbaugh spent three days hurling slurs at law school student Sandra Fluke, who testified before Congress in support of a requirement that health insurance plans cover contraceptives for women, citing the high relative cost for lower-income women. Limbaugh repeatedly called her a "slut," a "prostitute," and a "feminazi," suggested her parents ought to be ashamed for having her as a daughter, and demonstrated the embarrassing ignorance of human sexuality that is so characteristic of his ilk by claiming that Fluke is "having so much sex she can't afford her own birth control pills." For those unaware: birth control pills are taken daily, regardless of the frequency of sexual conduct, and have myriad benefits besides their contraceptive effect. Rush Limbaugh continues to enjoy the number one talk radio spot in the U.S. with as many as 20 million weekly listeners.

Not enough people are upset about what is happening. Although I do not know what the turnout was like at any of the other dozens of locations, at peak there were likely a paltry three hundred people gathered in front of City Hall, with perhaps five hundred coming and going throughout the day. The numbers may have been disappointing, but understandably those in Massachusetts might not feel as personally threatened as those in Mississippi or Arizona, where Governor Jan Brewer signed into law a bill that authorizes a ban on abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy. The bill also defines the beginning of a fetus's life as the first day of the parent's last menstrual period. Many have already pointed out that this implies that an embryo is legally alive as many as two weeks before conception.

say just about anything, heedless of science or logic. During one speaker's talk, a heckler wandered throughout the audience shouting "Get your facts straight!" over and over. The speaker, a professor from Harvard, was initially somewhat fazed but then continued with her personal anecdote.

The widespread apathy is terrifying. Whether talking with students at MIT or reading and watching the statements of politicians, the sense I get is that many people do not really care about the onslaught of reductions in abortion access. Although it is difficult to distill the political feelings of MIT students from our general lack of concern for things other than p-sets and the like, it is certainly true that the Democratic party as a whole is no longer willing to be the staunch defender of women's rights that it once was. Mean-

Not enough people are aware of what is happening. Not only is there a concerted effort by anti-abortion activists to end access to abortion entirely, but there is a strain of increasingly emboldened misogyny present in the national discourse.

If you were ever in doubt that large swaths of the pro-life movement do not actually care about saving "the unborn," I hope this will help you understand. As Amanda Marcotte said, "it's safe to assume that they'd simply prefer a situation where all women of reproductive age are considered to be pregnant, on the grounds that they could be two weeks from now." A popular slogan at the rally was "Politician ≠ Physician." And while some legislators are indeed doctors, the rapid encroachment of the government into what ought to be private medical decisions made between doctors and their patients is

Anti-choice activists — a subset of people who identify as pro-life - will

while, it remains the case that one in three U.S. women will obtain an abortion by age 45, that improved access to contraception lowers rates of unintended pregnancy and abortion, that nine in 10 abortions are performed in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, that childbirth is 10 times riskier than abortion, and that most people who obtain abortions are economically disadvantaged (69 percent), are under 30 (76 percent), are religious (73 percent), and already have children (61 percent), according to the Guttmacher Institute. And yet, Americans seem to prefer the preservation of an unthinking, unfeeling, unwanted, desireless, loveless fetus to the preservation of the health, the aspirations, and the future of

PUTIN III

An unloved intellectual

Raisa Gorbachova symbolizes the uncelebrated intellectual

By Florence Gallez

STAFF COLUMNIST

Should a majority of the Russian middle class truly venerate such values and the deeply-rooted intellectual ideals that Western observers tend to attribute to them, one may also wonder why there seems to have been so little display of respect and remembrance for the late wife of Mikhail Gorbachev, Raisa Gorbachova, the highly active and first university-educated First Lady of Russia. She revolutionized (if only briefly) her position in the Russian much of the population for dissolving the Soviet Union's powerful empire and bringing about the political, economic, and social chaos that ensured. But that does not justify a lack of appreciation for her own personal merits and accomplishments even before she married Gorbachev.

Yet, while there have been yearly visible gatherings and commemorations of anniversaries in public spaces for such questionable figures as Stalin, and even the non-Russian Hitler, Gorbachova seems to have been virtually pushed out of the headlines, as well as people's minds

be celebrated "at home," by Russians, she was celebrated abroad. It was Western media and observers who lavished far more attention on her, with all the major American networks broadcasting her 1990 speech with First Lady Laura Bush at Wellesley College, for instance.

This is just one case — and of course, there are people who do remember and appreciate her. But the lack of mass appeal this true symbol of high intellectual and democratic ideals inspired in her people does raise some questions about the socalled "educated emerging middle class."

I fully realize that so far I haven't done justice to the many people in Russian society, from the ordinary "Ivan" to the more prominent and pro-active entrepreneurs who truly want and actively defend democratic change. I do not doubt that there are many of them across Russia, and that their intentions and deeds are genuine. In fact,

Gorbachova seems to have been virtually pushed out of the headlines, as well as people's minds and memories.

system of governance, with her involve- and memories, Personally, I don't recall ment in children and women's issues and cancer programs, among others.

Sure, her husband is still reviled by

any sightings or press reports of such public celebrations for her.

Ironically, while she never seemed to

Putin, Page 5

OPINION POLICY

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Fixing MIT's failures in governance

How the Institute must do better

By Barun Singh

I am deeply concerned by the management and governance of MIT. We need to reform how MIT makes decisions and how the Corporation oversees the President.

The two student suicides that occurred this academic year provided MIT with an urgent imperative to meaningfully examine its policies and decision-making practices. Instead of learning from past mistakes, however, the administration has doubled-down, insisting that it is performing well even in the domain of student life and support services. The Corporation, ostensibly charged with overseeing the administration, has simply accepted these assertions as fact, despite ample evidence to the contrary.

I have been a member of the MIT Corporation for the past five years, and a member of the MIT community for over a decade. During my time here, I have seen our campus undergo two dramatic transformations that run counter to what we used to think of as the MIT culture.

First, the current administration has exercised a greater degree of top-down decision-making than any in recent history. This has led to significant, and understandable, frustration among faculty, staff and students alike, who have been dismissed with superficial pretences of involvement.

Second, we have as an institution increasingly concerned ourselves with our image as opposed to our substance. It is important to communicate our activities to the world, but the degree of strategic emphasis this administration has placed on PR and marketing is troubling, and unbecoming of the finest academic institution in the world.

Effect on student life

These broad shifts have had a particularly harsh effect on that thing we often call "community" — the sense of belonging, support, and engagement that allows individuals to feel like this is their home, and they have the power to shape its future along with their own. I believe that this aspect of our culture has suffered a sharp decline over the course of this administration, and numerous conversations over the past few years with a diverse selection of students, faculty, staff, and alums have bolstered this sense. Members of the Corporation who are actively engaged on campus, and have personally seen far more of MIT's history than I have, tell me that the situation is the worst it has been in decades.

To wit. I have yet to find even one member of the community, outside of the senior administration, who believes that the Division of Student Life is being run in a manner that reflects an understanding of the MIT culture. Many if not most of the changes that Chris Colombo has instituted in his department, with President Hockfield's encouragement, have actively harmed the MIT student body. The inability of the administration to provide acceptable reasoning for policies that face nearly universal disagreement is not an acceptable state of affairs.

Examples of mismanagement over the past few years are plenty. Student Support Services has been gutted, and well-respected individuals who have dedicated their careers and spirit to MIT were summarily dismissed or disregarded. We have eliminated the ability for students to walk in to MIT Medical at any time of night. We have gotten rid of Nightline — a service run by student volunteers that, for over 30 years, was the strongest symbol of students helping each other through times of crisis that this campus has known. The symbolic value alone of these services far outweighs the miniscule costs of their operations. How can we possibly justify these cutbacks while simultaneously throwing lavish PR parties to celebrate MIT's 150th birthday? What message do we send to our community when our actions show that fireworks are more important to us than student support?

Role of the Corporation

Ultimate fiduciary responsibility for ensuring that MIT is meeting its mission rests with the Corporation. It is a core component of this mission that we foster the growth and education of our students by creating a healthy environment for them to maximally fulfill their positive potential. By failing in the domain of student support, allowing our sense of community be damaged, and ignoring the broken decision-making processes that have led to these results, MIT, and thus the Corporation, is failing to meet its mission.

I have great respect for individual members of the Corporation and for its leadership, but I believe that the organization has fundamental structural flaws. Even the most intelligent and well-meaning individuals are prone to a unique dysfunction that befalls collectives: groupthink. It is simply easier to "go along to get along." The majority of a quarterly Corporation meeting is often more self-congratulation than critical examination, wherein Corporation members are a captive audience to the President's performance. It is a dangerous thing to believe your own PR, and this needs to change.

The true work of the Corporation is done through its committees. The Executive Committee makes decisions regarding the campus as a whole, and is most directly responsible for overseeing the President specifically. This committee is, amazingly, chaired by the President herself. This inherent conflict of interest makes it all but impossible for the Corporation to properly fulfil its responsibilities, and should be eliminated.

Visiting committees are responsible for oversight of individual departments and divisions within MIT. I was shocked to hear the report of the Visiting Committee for the Division of Student Life at the most recent Corporation meeting. Instead of critical assessment — which is the norm for visiting committees overseeing academic departments — the official committee report simply parroted the administration's stance. Its conclusions were obvious untenable: it is impossible that we could not be doing more in the domain of student support when we had more and better programs in place only a few years ago; it is impossible that the division is well managed when every single constituency it affects believes that its policies are destructive. In addition, the report failed to include dissenting assessments from committee members. The Corporation must seriously enhance its standards of oversight, or risk losing its credibility as an effective body.

I pointedly raised my concerns at the recent Corporation meeting, just as I have in previous meetings. Having spoken to the Chairman of the Corporation as well as other lifelong and term members, I am confident that there are other members of the board who share the concerns I have raised above, regarding both the management of MIT and our governance systems.

Where students fit in

So why raise these issues in a public forum, and why now?

Large organizations — public or private, for profit or not - are challenging to govern, and MIT is no exception. Making substantial changes is difficult, even when the leadership wishes to do so. It requires fighting against entrenched power structures and managing the political climate appropriately. Public pressure is often necessary to force such organizations to overcome their inertia. At an academic institution, this means pressure from students and faculty.

In the coming months, MIT will elect a new president. This presents a vital opportunity to reset the mode of interaction so that we might honor an ethos that allows MIT to truly shine. This is exactly the time when the community ought to become organized and vocalize the fundamental changes that are

I submit that if MIT students are interested in preserving the culture that has made this campus so vibrant, the student body

- Demand greater competence and relevance from your student governments. Organized, principled, well-executed advocacy from these groups can have tremendous impact, and the lack thereof makes it nearly impossible for forward movement. When student governments can find nothing better to do than throw large parties on the graduate side, and face repeated resignations on the undergraduate side, there is a problem.
- Speak up. It is not somebody else's job to stand up for what you believe in. Those who are unwilling to speak up have little authority to complain, and there are ample opportunities for any student who believes MIT should be functioning better to help it do so: become active in student government bodies, write opinion pieces, or find other ways to be heard.
- Become engaged in the Corporation: The Corporation holds an election among the graduating class and recent alums to elect a new member to the board every year. This is how I was elected to serve. The recent alum members serve a vital function, providing a point of view that is otherwise unheard. Voting to elect the next member is open now: if you are graduating this year or are an alum from the past two years, please vote. If you are a current student, please nominate individuals for the ballot and become engaged when it is your turn.

MIT is an amazing and inspiring place to be a part of. Every institution fumbles, and the best ones are able to correct themselves in time to grow stronger. We should all work to see that MIT is able to understand its weaknesses, regain its footing, and establish itself firmly as the world's leading example of what an academic institution should be.

Barun Singh ENG '06, is a recent-graduate member of the MIT Corporation, former president of the Graduate Student Council, and a former Tech opinion editor.

Western media has distorted the real Russia

Serious progress still needs to be made with the Russian middle class

Putin, from Page 4

despite hundreds of arrests reported in several cities, opposition leaders have vowed to resume their demonstrations in the near

But my goal here is to draw attention to the naïve, misplaced, and inflated U.S. and Western media's bias in their coverage of signs of democracy in Russian society (and perhaps I could tentatively throw in those of a few countries of the former Soviet Union uch as Ukraine and Belarus). The Russian system seems to me still too encrusted in its old ways to say so optimistically that it has changed fully and for the long-term. While there is certainly beauty in the strategy of envisioning what one wishes for and seeking signs of it, the media should still report facts and the truth, and not yield to the temptation of inflating what it wants to see — and what Washington and Brussels want to hear.

A corollary of such hasty and optimistic appraisals of the protests and situation with Russian civil society in general is that they can lead to a quick dismissal of how much progress still needs to be made, and how serious the obstacles that lie in people's paths

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton appeared to commit that very mistake by brushing under the carpet widespread alleged irregularities in the presidential election and declaring Putin the "clear winner,"

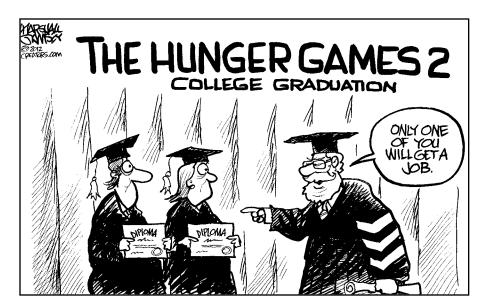
with whom the United States is now "ready to work with," The Los Angeles Times reported. Russian human rights activists denounced those comments as an insult to their hard work and concerns.

In any case, their indignation is certainly an encouraging sign that at least some segments of Russian society are more in touch with reality and pro-active than rosy-eyed Western analysts or the older generations who are often nostalgic about the more stable days under Communism. But even some of the younger generation have shown clear signs of fatalistic apathy when it comes to politics and bringing change.

At least some American news organizations have started to acknowledge the premature protest fatigue among Russian activists, following Russian media reports and a VTsIOM poll citing the shrinking size of the anti-Putin rallies soon after the elec-

But in a country where the authorities and the public are often at loggerheads as to the honesty of electoral proceedings and the veracity of the results — as in this latter presidential one, which included an allegedly foiled assassination attempt on Putin that is believed to be concocted by his team as a ruse to garner support for his election it is very hard to discern facts from fice tion, and interpret statistics and sentiments accurately.

This article is the fifth in a series on Russia's presidential election, popular street protests, and Putin's new presidency.





Occupy provides new research opportunities

Researchers seek to understand dynamics of movement and psychology of protestors

Occupy, from Page 1

lice response in major cities. (New York is an exception, said Vitale, who organized a demonstration against police tactics in Zuccotti Park in the fall but said he did not consider himself part of the Occupy movement.) Other researchers are doing ethnographic studies, crunching survey data, recording oral histories and analyzing media by and about the movement, all at lightning speed compared with the usual pace of scholarship.

"Academics are used to taking forever, but we don't have to," said Theda Skocpol, a sociologist at Harvard and author, with Vanessa Williamson, of "The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism," a study of Occupy's right-wing counterpart published in January.

That book, which combines indepth interviews with quantitative analysis of the Tea Party movement, is a model for the kind of ambitious

work that could emerge in studies heading is making recommendaof the Occupy movement, some social scientists say. But getting a handle on Occupy, with its amorphous structure and aims, could be more challenging, Skocpol said.

"The Tea Party from the beginning saw themselves as leveraging and changing the Republican Party, while the Occupy people are much more ambivalent," she said. "That makes them harder to pin down."

Some researchers also say that the sympathy many academics feel for the movement risks undermining objective research.

Edward Maguire, a criminologist at American University who is leading a study of attitudes toward the police and the law among Occupy protesters in six cities, cited an incident in which one research assistant at a demonstration in Washington in March "handed in her ID, turned in her clipboard and within minutes got arrested."

"Part of where our research is

tions to police departments," he said. "When they look at our research. I want them to trust it. Having people involved in the movement wouldn't work for us."

Yet scholars in disciplines with a long tradition of participant-observer research say that direct involvement can offer a better understanding of a movement's internal dynamics.

"Everybody I know doing this is an activist of some sort," said Jeffrey Juris, an associate professor of anthropology at Northeastern University who is organizing strategy workshops for Occupy Boston while also studying it. "But Occupy is so open and broad-based, it doesn't take much to consider yourself an

Juris and other activist scholars started an online clearinghouse called Occupy Research in the fall to share research methods, tools and data sets. So far the network has hosted two "hackathons" using data gathered on the site as well as facilitated collaborative research like an accounting of Occupy encampments worldwide and analyses of Occupy-related Twitter posts.

But that kind of research, however valuable, is "low-hanging fruit," said Todd Gitlin, a professor of sociology and communications at Columbia and the author of "Occupy Nation," a sympathetic account of the movement published this week as an e-book. The most pressing unanswered question, he said, doesn't concern Occupy's activist core but the nature of what he called "the outer movement," those people who may have showed up for big marches but don't attend general assemblies or other meetings.

"They are the political means by which the movement grows," Gitlin said. "And there are a lot more of them."

In the fall, the organizers in New York asked Hector Cordero-Guzman, a sociologist at Baruch College, to devise an online survey, which was then posted at occupywallst.org. The first wave of results, published in October, is widely credited with cementing the picture of the movement as representing what Cordero-Guzman, in an interview, called "a decent crosssection of the population."

"This wasn't just young single people with nothing to do at age 22," he said. "These were people who had done all the right things and things weren't working out for them so well."

Many scholars, however, question the value of Internet surveys, which can skew toward respondents who are more committed and more comfortable with technology. "I think it's terrific that he did it, and did it so quickly," said Ruth Milkman, a sociologist at the Graduate Center of the City University of New Yorkwho is planning a randomized survey of Occupy participants. "But it's not representative. No one quite knows who is excluded."

From page 12

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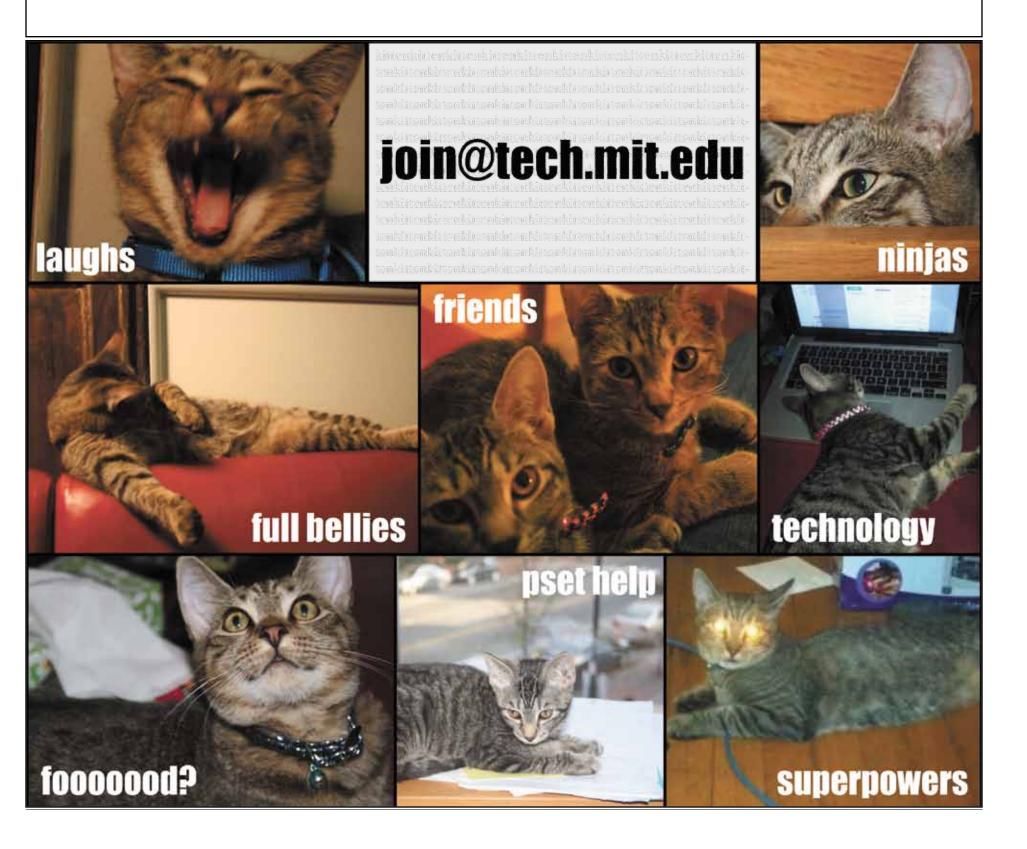


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The 'holy grail' of hacks

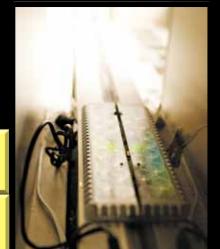
The construction of one of the most anticipated hacks of all time

EDITOR IN CHIEF

153 windows, 153 pixels. Two weekends ago, the front of the Green Building lit up sible. While they refused to disclose their in a colorful display of the popular puzzler Tetris. The 17x9 pixel screen spanned over est screen in the nation. Appearing mysteriously on Friday night, the Tetris hack was the culmination of over four and a half years of work by an undisclosed number of hackers. With the completion of the hack came the conclusion of a dream; the idea has been around since the 80s when the of transforming Building 54 into a working game was first invented, and the inception game of *Tetris* has been a fantasy of hackers of this hack started just over four years ago. for decades.

was marked as impossible," one of the Activity happened in bursts; the project hackers said to *The Tech* this Sunday.

The Green Building, whose front measures over 100 by 295 feet, might have



GREG STEINBRECHER—THE TECH The status LED on this pixel glows green, indicating its readiness to turn on at the figurative flip of a switch. Each pixel features a button labeled "sleep" which, according to an e-mail sent to the EAPS department, will disable the pixel for three hours if the office occupant is bothered by the light and pushes it.

played in the United States.

The Tech had the opportunity to sit with three of the hackers who made it all posidentity or mention which hacking group they were a part of, they did indicate that people and covered a range of courses and

Birth of a hack

The idea of doing Green Building *Tetris*

"Four years ago, we were like, 'let's just "The point was to do something that freaking do it," said one of the hackers. would lay dormant until someone would "get an itch" to work on it again.

One of the biggest challenges in the engineering process was how to properly illuminate the entire window from a single spot. The device needed to be small enough to not annoy the room's occupant, but powerful enough to uniformly light the window. Each window on the Green Building is about eight feet tall by six feet wide, and formed one pixel of the entire display. Every window was outfitted with a custom built LED board that was wirelessly

"It wouldn't have been possible to run wires to put everything together," a hacker said, "From our perspective; this was the only way you could possibly build it."

The units used consisted of 2-layer aluminum-core printed circuit boards housed in an aluminum casing. To cut costs, the hackers used standard aluminum bar stock which was CNC machined to create custom one-piece housings. The devices all have 13 LEDs on them, each rated for 3 watts. The hackers went through five differ-

been host to the largest game of *Tetris* ever ent prototypes before settling on the final

its heat dissipation. "They are thermally linked to the window sill," said a hacker, "Turns out we don't actually run them that 9/11, the hackers now had the ability to use hot, ever. If you were to run them [to full it more easily for other things. They were 80 by 250 feet — making it the second larg- their team was much larger than three capacity], it would still only be warm to the responsible for the purple ribbon that ap-

> The housing for each board was also specially designed for the wireless anten- goal of the project, and they set their sights so future generations can use the Green nae, which communicated with a computer held in the podium where players controlled the game.

"The wireless itself is. ...the cheapest solution that would work for this application," he said, "This was the minimum you could get away with and it would still

With the design finalized, the time came to implement the hack. The team worked for two months nonstop.

"We worked every night from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.," he said, "I'm not kidding you, every

The more you can get prefrosh interested in hacks, the more likely prefrosh to come to MIT.'

The fruit of their efforts was the patriotic display that appeared on the Green hack finally went live Friday night? Building on 9/11. The flag, which went up in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of September 11, is the same LED system that was used for the Tetris Hack.

The reaction to the memorial hack was

"People thought they were Christmas Mass Ave. bridge saw it and came to see tree lights," a hacker said, also mentioning the actual thing," said a hacker. Another One of the advantages of the design was that the response on the internet had been surprisingly slow. But they did not lose heart — with the system fully installed for peared on the building in honor of Relay for Life in March. Tetris was the original on CPW for its premiere.

"It's a time when people want to put up hacks," one of the hackers explained, "The more you can get prefrosh interested in hacks, the more likely you get more interesting prefrosh to come to MIT."

"You have the most audience for CPW," he added, "Everybody is up late."

When the hack finally went live, the Twitterverse and Facebook exploded with photos of the event, with dozens of MIT students boasting about seeing the coolest way." hack ever. A number of Boston media reported on the event, and the internet carried the story even further. For every night that the hack was up, the podium where one could play the game was swarmed with impressed prefrosh and parents, all vyyou get more interesting ing for their turn at the largest Tetris game they'd ever seen. Students laughed about how their mistakes playing the game were Anonymous broadcast across the river to all of Boston, TETRIS HACKER and each tetris was met with cheers and applause from those standing around.

Asked how they felt when the *Tetris*

"It was freaking awesome," said one of the hackers.

"Watching it from across the river is pretty freaking sweet," added another.

"Honestly, I think the thing that was more cool was people walking down the

internet as being encouraging.

Building's "screen."

etary sciences); the residents of Building

54, to keep the hack installed permanently

but it's still pretty cool. People whose win-

dows they are in actually all have varied

plained one of the hackers, "It's just

"We don't want hurt feelings in any

To prevent occupants from getting an-

In the near future, hackers have a few pointed out the positive response on the ideas for things to put on the building, though they declined to state exactly what they had in mind.

More excitingly, however, is the plan to The hackers have made arrangements release the software used to create the Tewith EAPS (Earth, Atmospheric, and Plantris game on the internet so people can try and make their own hack that could run on the building.

"Everything would still go through us to make sure it's vetted and ok with us," one "In general, EAPS is supportive," said a of the hackers said, "We would like to open this up to a general audience."

hacker, "They think it's difficult to manage, "It also means less work for us," he laughed, "If someone develops something that's really neat. ...that's cool and we'll do that. It's interesting to see what people gry with the hack, each unit has a button will do with the design challenge of the low that will disable the light for a few hours. resolution display. It's only 17x9. It's a bit of a challenge." "Part of the goal is public relations," ex-

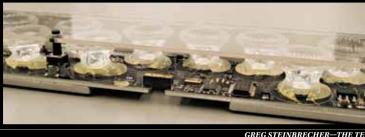
Those interested in creating something for the Green Building display can find the software online at https://github.com/



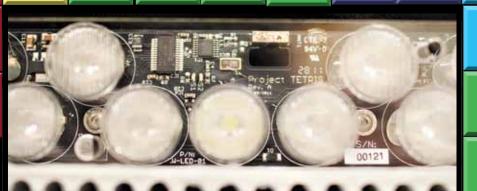
CHRIS PENTACOFF In September, hackers lit up the Green Building in a patriotic display of an American flag in honor of 9/11. The flag was the first use of the LED system that was later featured in he *Tetris* hack



Each pixel in the display featured the phrase "WHO did this?" printed on the corner of the circuit board



Under the protective plexiglass cover, each device features 13 LEDs. Each pixel has a ridged plastic cover to direct the light up toward the window rather than back into the room



GREG STEINBRECHER—THE TECH A close up view of board number 121. Of note is the antenna at the top of the image; each pixel is independently controlled via wireless link. The larger black IC is a PIC24FJ32GA — an inexpensive micro controller similar to those found in the popular



A woman plays Tetris on the display on the Green Building during Campus Preview Weekend.



Students and prefrosh alike were able to play a fully functional game of *Tetris* on the Green Building over Campus Preview Weekend. Hackers used the already installed LED arrays to light up the windows with a variety of colors for the super-sized video game.



TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2012 10 THE TECH

GSC committee performs in-depth rent analysis

Survey shows graduate students face rise in transportation, utilities and housing costs

Grad stipend, from Page 1

due to low vacancy rates in Cambridge, which Spatocco noted were "lower than in Manhattan."

"Low supply leads to high demand," said Spatocco, "and high rates are likely to continue."

Consumer price index (CPI) inflation numbers from the federal government's Bureau of Labor Statistics were used to examine inflation

for the buckets. To analyze rent inflation, however, Spatocco said that the Cost of Living team did not use the CPI data, but performed its own analysis instead.

"Housing in Boston, Cambridge, and Somerville is expensive and subject to high inflation," Spatocco said. "We concluded that annual CPI data would not work for rent. Instead, we did an in-depth rent analysis, which was worth it because two-thirds of

grad students live off campus."

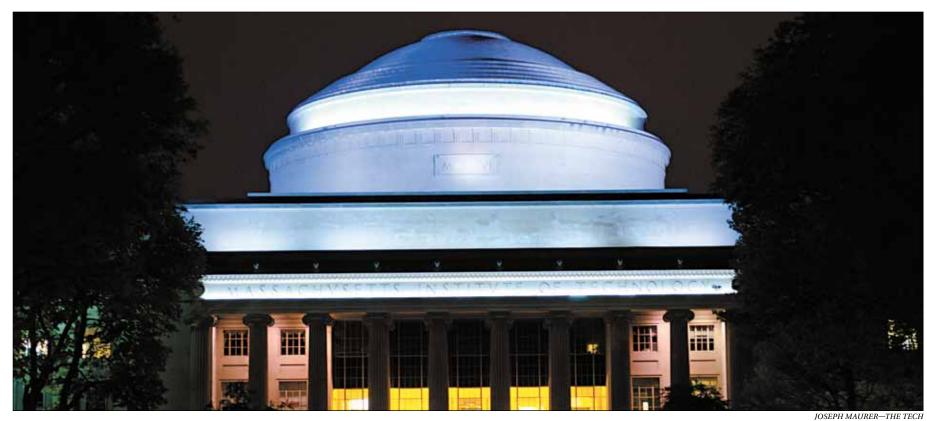
Spatocco noted that rent accounts for about 50 percent of grad student expenses. Rent analysis was done using "hyperlocal data" aggregated by the off-campus housing office at MIT. For cross-checking, these numbers were compared to figures from both the City of Cambridge and online data from consulting firms.

Other students on the Cost of

Living subcommittee were Randi Cabezas G, Javier Sanchez G, Ellan Spero G, and co-chair Maokai Lin G.

After analyzing the data, the Cost of Living team made recommendations that were presented to MIT's Academic Council, which consists of all the Deans from the Institute's schools, as well as the senior leadership of the university.

In addition to significant collaboration from Dean for Graduate Education Christine Ortiz, Dean for Student Life Chris Colombo and Peter Cummings from the Division of Student Life, the project also listed Jagruti Patel, Greg Harris, John Daries, and Lydia Snover from Institution Research as having made significant contributions. The changes to the stipend were announced April 6, 2012 by Ortiz and Claude Canizares. Vice President for Research and Associate Provost.



PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER

Last night the Great Dome was bathed in blue light for the end of National Autism Awareness Month. Autism Awareness Month, recognized in April by the United States, has been celebrated since the 1970s. This month of awareness serves as an opportunity to educate the public about autism and the issues in the community.



<u>Тне Тесн</u> 11 Tuesday, May 1, 2012

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Music

Philosophy

Political Science

Psychology

Public Policy

Regional Studies

African & African Diaspora

Asian & Asian Diaspora

Latin American & Latino

Middle Eastern

Russian & Eurasian

Science, Technology, and Society

Theater Arts

Urban Studies & Planning

Women's & Gender Studies

Writing

shass.mit.edu/undergraduate/minors



FER SCIENCE AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LABORATORY



Leslie G. Valiant Harvard University

Date: Thursday, May 3, 2012

Venue: MIT Stata Center, Building 32-123/Kirsch Auditorium

Time: 4:00PM (refreshments at 3:45PM)

A Computational Theory of Cortex and Hippocampus

Abstract: The brain performs many kinds of computation for which it is challenging to hypothesize any mechanism that does not contradict the evidence. In particular, over a lifetime the brain performs a large number of individual cognitive, most having some dependence on past experience and also long-term effects. It is difficult to reconcile such large scale capabilities, even in principle, with the known resource constraints on cortex, such as low connectivity and low average synaptic strength. Here we shall describe model neural circuits and associated algorithms that respect the brain's most basic resource constraints and support the execution of large numbers of cognitive actions. These circuits simultaneously support a suite of four basic kinds of task that each requires some circuit modification: memory allocation, association, supervised memorization, and inductive learning of threshold functions. The capacity of these circuits is established via experiments in which sequences of thousands of such actions are simulated by computer, and the circuits created tested for the subsequent efficacy of these actions. Hierarchical memory allocation to arbitrary depth has the adde requirement that a stable number of neurons be assigned to memories at every level. We give a mechanism for this that can be realized in a shallow feedforward network. We suggest that in the brain it is the hippocampus that performs this stable memory allocation.

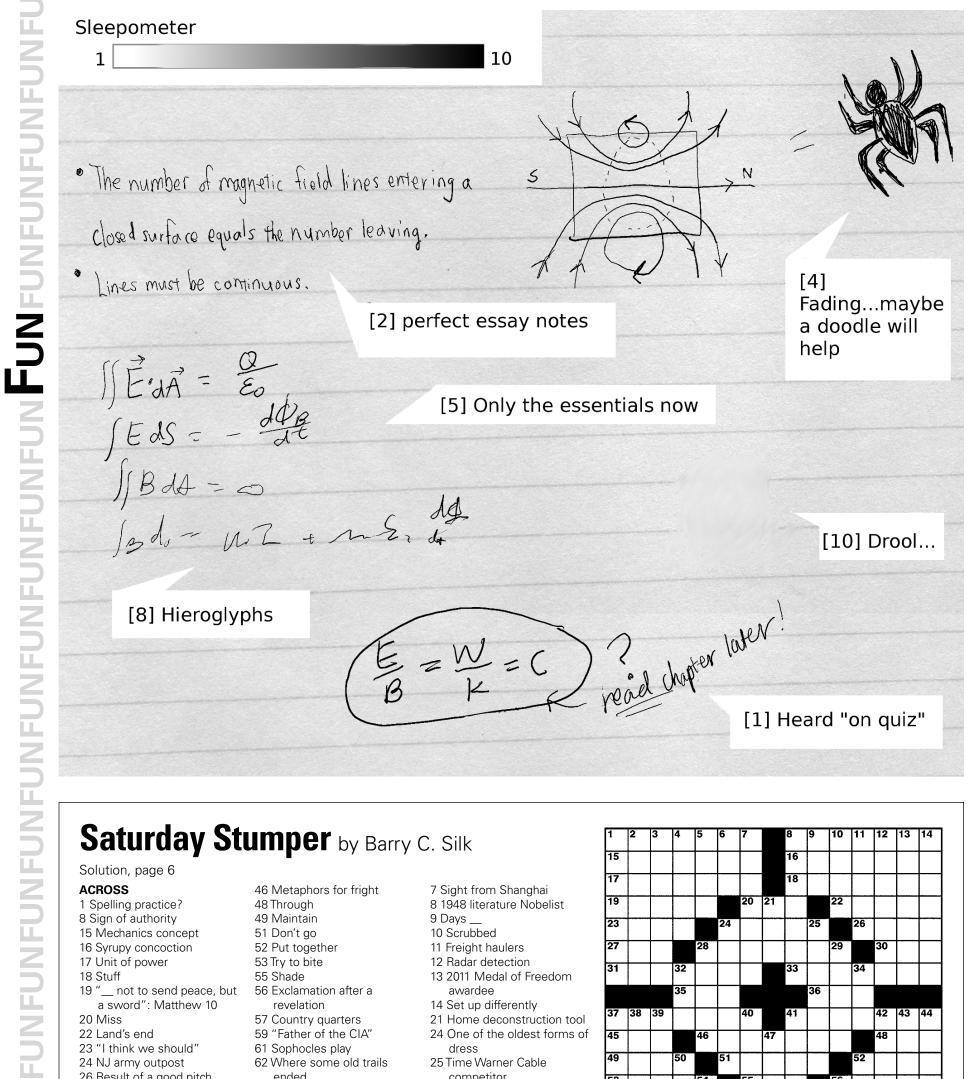
Leslie Valiant was educated at King's College, Cambridge; Imperial College, London; and at Warwick University where he received his Ph.D. in compu science in 1974. He is currently T. Jefferson Coolidge Professor of Computer Science and Applied Mathematics in the School of Engineering and Appli Sciences at Harvard University, where he has taught since 1982. Before coming to Harvard he had taught at Carnegie Mellon University, Leeds Univers and the University of Edinburgh. His work has ranged over several areas of theoretical computer science, particularly complexity theory, computation learning, and parallel computation. He also has interests in computational neuroscience, evolution and artificial intelligence. He received the Nevanlin Prize at the International Congress of Mathematicians in 1986, the Knuth Award in 1997, the European Association for Theoretical Computer Scien EATCS Award in 2008, and the 2010 A. M. Turing Award. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society (London) and a member of the National Academy

Host: Anant Agarwal, CSAIL

For more information: www.csail.mit.edu or 617.253.0145

12 THE TECH **TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2012**

Beaver Tails by Ranbel Sun



Saturday Stumper by Barry C. Silk

Solution, page 6

ACROSS

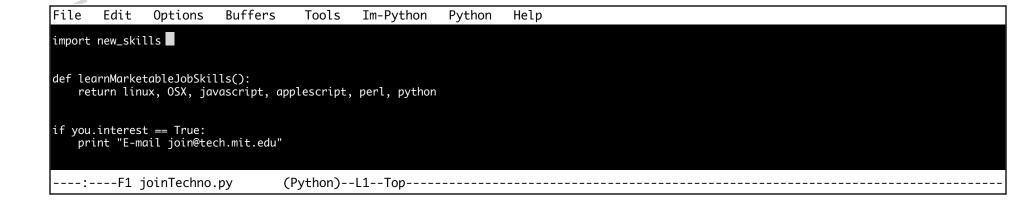
- 1 Spelling practice?
- 8 Sign of authority
- 15 Mechanics concept
- 16 Syrupy concoction 17 Unit of power
- 18 Stuff
- 19 "__ not to send peace, but a sword": Matthew 10
- 20 Miss
- 22 Land's end
- 23 "I think we should"
- 24 NJ army outpost 26 Result of a good pitch
- 27 Medical specialty 28 Scram
- 30 Vet, for one
- 31 Reputation
- 33 Drain
- 35 US capital before Philadelphia
- 36 Prefix like a-
- 37 Annov
- 41 Something impressive, or not at all impressive

- 46 Metaphors for fright
- 48 Through
- 49 Maintain
- 51 Don't go 52 Put together
- 53 Try to bite
- 55 Shade
- 56 Exclamation after a revelation
- 57 Country quarters
- 59 "Father of the CIA"
- 61 Sophocles play
- 62 Where some old trails ended
- 63 Was a scourge
- 64 Variety.com stats

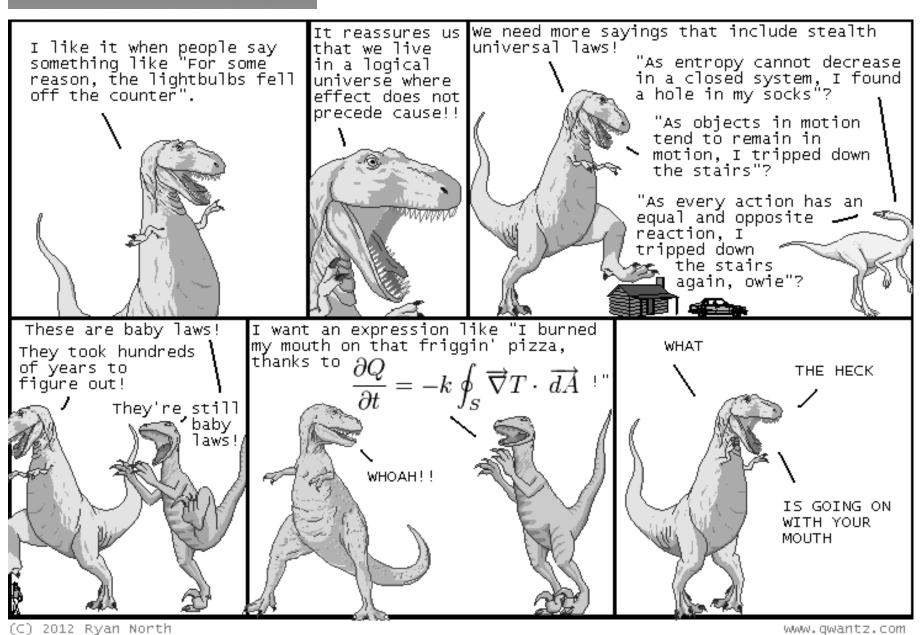
DOWN

- 1 Animal analogies, often 2 Words over a 2012 Union
- Shield
- 3 Aegean Rally, for one
- 4 Stuffs
- 5 Major conclusion
- 6 #1 tourist city in the Southern Hemisphere

- 7 Sight from Shanghai
- 8 1948 literature Nobelist
- 9 Days
- 10 Scrubbed
- 11 Freight haulers
- 12 Radar detection
- 13 2011 Medal of Freedom awardee
- 14 Set up differently
- 21 Home deconstruction tool
- 24 One of the oldest forms of
- dress 25 Time Warner Cable
- competitor 28 Trade-show attendee
- 29 Fairy-tale stock characters
- 32 17 Across basis of comparison
- 34 Keyboard key
- 37 Ricocheted
- 38 They're filled at the market
- 39 Took on
- 40 Thunder, e.g.
- 41 Follow carefully
- 42 Unfolds
- 43 What fighters call home
- 19 23 42 43 44 45 53 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64
- 44 Evinces displeasure with
- 47 Car-bumper protector
- 50 Vigilant guard
- 52 Has graceful continuity
- 54 Cheery send-off
- 56 Cut __ (deplete)
- 58 It means "Get away from me!"
- 60 "__ Song" (Taylor Swift single)



Dinosaur Comics



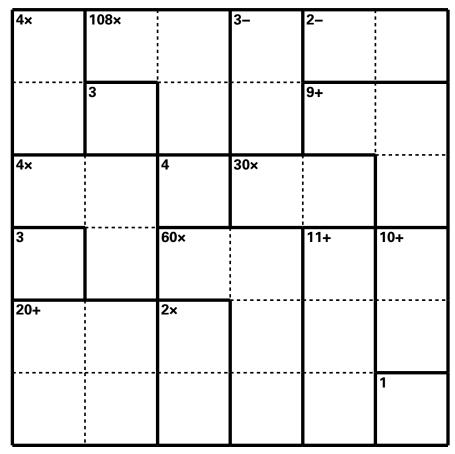
Sudoku

Solution, page 15

1					4	3 4		
	2					4	9	
3		4	7		2			
	3		2	8			4	
		7				6		
	4			5	6		8	
			6		8	9		1
	1	9					6	
		8	1					4

Techdoku

Solution, page 15



Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

■ MENS ET TENEBRAE

The nuts and bolts of getting help

A beginner's guide to mental health treatment

By Grace Taylor

It seems that at MIT, toughness is valued above almost all else. We take pride in stretching ourselves thin, whether taking an absurd number of classes, pulling multiple all-nighters, or doing well in a class we never actually attend. With our workloads, time is precious. When we're tired, sick, or in a bad mood — we learn to cope.

Time and time again, I've seen my friends and classmates apply this attitude to their discontent, loneliness, or depression. I don't know if they're not familiar with the kind of help available, or if they're just hesitant to seek it. Personally, it's hard for me to empathize with that mindset, because I've been depressed my whole life. I never thought there was something wrong with me until I went on medication, and my life improved dramatically. I feel very lucky that this took place before I tried to drink from MIT's firehose. I can't imagine how hard it is to come face to face with depression, anxiety, or anything of the sort for the first time while trying to handle

The basics of mental health

In light of my experience with mental health treatment, I'd like to offer a student perspective about different options and what to expect. Let's start with the basics. Most forms of mental health treatment fall into two categories: psychotherapy or psychopharmacology.

Psychotherapy covers many different approaches and can be performed by psychiatrists, psychologists, and various types of counselors and social workers. You might picture a person lying on a little couch talking about his or her feelings as a doctor takes notes, but that setup is to psychotherapy what the Model T is to cars — just the beginning. There are hundreds of different schools of thought under the heading of psychotherapy that I know very little about, from group therapy, to hypnotherapy, to art therapy, and so on. In its most basic form, though, psychotherapy is spoken conversation between the therapist and the client, with the goal of trying to improve the client's emotional life.

I've undergone psychotherapy with a psychiatrist and a psychologist at different points in my life. The first guy even had one of those little couches, although at the age of 11, I took myself too seriously to actually lie on it

These days, my therapist and I talk for 50 minutes once a week, typically about my past, how I'm feeling about different aspects of my life, and trends in my reactions to various situations. I've been in therapy for almost 10 years, and I have no idea how it works. I'm somewhat troubled by this fact, and as MIT students, you guys might be too. Some people spend their time in therapy identifying problems and then developing solutions for them, but I mostly just monologue. It doesn't make sense that this has the ability to make me feel calmer. more in control, and less depressed. But, at the end of the day, it doesn't matter if it makes sense. It works.

Next, there's psychopharmacology, which is the practice of prescribing medication to treat various psychiatric conditions. Psychopharm is necessarily performed by a medical doctor or nurse clinician. From what I can tell, it's a pretty tricky business, because there's no way to identify the mechanism that might be causing a particular person's problem. These days, psychiatric conditions are identified largely by symptom, not etiology. A drug like Prozac might work excellently for me but have no effect for someone with my exact presentation. Sometimes it seems like your doctor is playing pin-the-tail-on-the-psych-disorder, completely blind to the ac-

discuss your plan for treatment. I had one psychiatrist in particular who was exceptionally speedy with these follow-up meetings. My all-time record was seven minutes.

I mention the duration of these meetings because of how it relates to the cost. Both psychotherapy and psychopharm can be insanely expensive. If you are seeing a psychiatrist who is not covered by your insurance, you can drop hundreds of dollars on a 15-minute appointment. It's a non-starter for the vast majority of the population. In most cases, however, you should be able to get help without paying the sticker price.

Finding a provider

This brings us to your choice of provider. In terms of price, MIT Medical is very appealing. Visits to Mental Health and Counseling are free for registered MIT students. They offer psychopharmacology and a range of types of psychotherapy, all with no co-pay. This is a huge deal. Besides that, they're right on campus, the providers understand the plight of the MIT student, and they're familiar with great resources like Student Support Services. I've been very satisfied going to Medical for psychopharmacology for a while now.

Some people do choose to see outside

examined by a psychiatrist. If that psychiatrist deems the person unfit to look after themselves because of mental illness or at risk of harming themselves or others, that person may be hospitalized. This is often referred to as a "Section 12," because of specific part of Massachusetts legislature that describes it. According to Alan Siegel, Chief of MIT Mental Health Service, 2,316 students have visited Mental Health and Counseling this year for a total of 12,955 visits. Approximately 45 percent of these students were undergraduates. Since July 1, 25 undergraduates and eight graduate students have been hospitalized for reasons relating to mental health. This includes students who voluntarily admitted themselves to the hospital, those who were sent by outside providers, and those who were sent from MIT Medical. Thirteen of the 25 hospitalized undergraduates and five of the eight graduate students have since returned to their studies.

Now, I'm sure that Section 12s have saved lives, and in other cases, they weren't the best course of action. Some of you who are worried about this possibility may choose to avoid MIT Medical all together. If you're worried about being misunderstood, my advice would be the opposite — come earlier, come more frequently, and develop a relationship with a provider there.

I have a final word to the wise. If you decide to try psychotherapy or psychopharm for the first time, and you feel like you don't get along with the provider — find a new one. You're not going to keep up with anything that involves sitting in a small room with a person you dislike. Getting help involves a high barrier to entry for lots of people, so you're doing yourself a huge disservice if you give up on it after one try with one person. Please give yourself the best possible chance of getting better.

For more information on costs and insurance outside of MIT Medical, visit: http://medweb.mit.edu/mental-health/mh-costs.html.

For more information on hospitalization, visit: http://medweb.mit.edu/mentalhealth/mh-questions.html.

To make an appointment at MIT Mental Health or to get a reference to an outside provider, call 617-253-2916 during business hours.

MAY 1 – MAY 7

I can't imagine how hard it is to come face to face with depression, anxiety, or anything of the sort for the first time while trying to handle MIT.

tual biology going on in your head.

I've seen three different people for psychopharmacology over the past eight years, and it's the same drill every time. First appointment: you meet your doctor, tell them the abridged version of your life story, explain what problems have led you into their office on that particular day, and then make a treatment decision. This is approximately a 45-minute process. I'm sure a great deal of subtlety and tact goes into these initial meetings, and that psychiatrists would be shaking their heads at my dumbed down version of their lives' work. That's the gist of it from my end, though. After that, you come in for follow-up meetings, which are shorter, since you just have to get them up to speed about how you've been feeling since your last visit, and then

providers. It's nice to get off campus, and there's something to be said for keeping your mental health separate from your life at school. From what I've heard in the past three-and-a-half years here, there's a fear among the student body that if they go to MIT Medical in distress, there's a chance they could get forced to go to the hospital, and possibly take a leave of absence from the Institute. This process is surrounded by rumors and misinformation, so I want to clarify a few points about it.

"Section 12"

In Massachusetts, physicians, psychologists, police officers, social workers, and certain nurses have the ability to fill out a form that requires someone to be transported to a particular facility to be

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EVENTS

(4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.) How Can We Feed a Growing World and Sustain

TUESDAY

the Planet? Talk by Professor Jonathan Foley — E51-115

(6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.) Digital Media SIG Event: In-Store Shopping Goes Mobile, panel on mobile phones in retail stores— E51-149

WEDNESDAY

(5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.) MISTI Foreign film night: Pan's Labyrinth —

(9:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.) Egyptian Cultural Night — NW86

THURSDAY

(7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) Renee Green: *Endless Dreams and Time-Based Streams*, book signing and film screening

FRIDAY

(12:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.) UNBOUND: Speculations on the Future of the Book — E15-070

(3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) 10th annual Prokopoff violin music concert — 14E-109

SATURDAY

(6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.) American Teacher screening and discussion — NW86-161

SUNDAY

(1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) Eastgate Garden Party — E55

(4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.) MITHAS Spring Series presents Kumaresh & Jayanthi, Carnatic violin and veena — E51 Wong Auditorium

MONDAY

(4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.) Starr Forum: Inequality and Instability: A Study of the World Economy Just Before the Great Crisis — E62-262

(4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.) International Development Career Fair — 10-105

Send your campus events to events@tech.mit.edu.

TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2012 THE TECH 15

Men's tennis beats Springfield College

Wins 5-0 in semifinal match of NEWMAC tourney: 14-4 overall

By Phil Hess

MIT took the first step towards defending its New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference Men's Tennis title with a 5-0 win over Springfield College today in a semifinal match of the 2012 NEWMAC Tournament. MIT

improved to 14-4 with the victory

while Springfield fell to 8-8 on the

MIT took control of the match early on with wins in all three doubles matches.

MIT took control of the match early on with wins in all three doubles matches. The Engineers' No. 3 team of seniors Robert W. Wheeler

Solution to Sudoku

1 8 6 5 9 4 3 7 2 2 5 8 1 3 4 9 6

3 9 4 7 6 2 8 1 5

6 3 1 2 8 7 5 4 9

8 5 7 9 4 1 6 2 3 9 4 2 3 5 6 1 8 7 7 3 6 2 8 9 5 1 2 1 9 4 3 5 7 6 8 5 6 8 1 7 9 2 3 4 and Biafra O. Ahanonu scored the first point of the day, taking an 8-0 win over Springfield senior Zach O'Leary and sophomore Joe Giannelli (Watertown, Conn.). At No. 2, the MIT pairing of Curtis L. Wu '14 and Larry Pang '13 won 8-4 over Springfield. MIT made it a clean sweep in a spirited No. 1 doubles match where the team of Matthew T. Skalak '13 and Edwin M. Zhang '14 defeated the Springfield team of freshman Kyle Mersereau and junior Benjamin Burnap, 8-5.

Needing just two points to win the match, the Engineers got them in the first two singles matches, to take the win. At No. 4, junior Tymor C. Hamamasy downed Nickerson, 6-3, 6-1, to put the Engineers up 4-0. Zhang then clinched the match for MIT, defeating Mersereau by the same 6-3, 6-1 score. With the outcome of the match determined, the final four singles contests were not finished.

Solution to Techdoku

	trom	page 7	_
4	•		ı

1	6	3	5	4	2
4	3	6	2	1	5
2	1	4	6	5	3
3	2	5	1	6	4
5	4	1	3	2	6
6	5	2	4	3	1

MITASME General Body Wee

Tuesday May 1st 7:00-8:00 5-217

SETTING THE STANDA

Wonder what ASME is?

Do you want to become involved with ASME?

Have ideas to improve Course 2 student life?

Want to be involved with the ASME District A Conference planning committee? Enjoy eating free food with other Course 2ers? Then come to the MIT ASME General Body Meeting!

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Gymnastics dominates

Wins intercollegiate club competition in UT

By Katie Bodner ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Having just won five out of their six meets, the MIT Women's Gymnastics team was fully confident and prepared to enter the National Association of Intercollegiate Gymnastics Clubs' meet in Salt Lake City, Utah. The meet was at the Salt Lake City Convention Center, April 19-21, and over 50 gymnastics clubs from the United States entered the competition. MIT decidedly won the competition with 149.25 points overall.

Last season, the team won nationals, and they have high hopes this year as well. "I think the girls really wanted to show everyone we could do it again,"Coach Gina Policelli said.

The weekend began with the preliminary competition on Thursday. An overall team score of 145.8 allowed the team to advance

to finals, placing first in their session. Zara K. Kuraman '13 made finals in all four events and all-around. Julia Sharpe '09 made finals on vault, bar, floor, and all-around. Lindsay M. Sanneman '14 made it on bars, beam, and all-around, and Adrienn La-Chance (Harvard '14) made it on floor.

The team also had some fun bonding time during the weekend since they did not have any competitions on Friday and got the chance to explore around the beautiful Salt Lake City and Park City. Saturday, however, it was time to showcase all of the hard work the girls had put in throughout the season.

"Each girl rose to her potential and peaked exactly when we needed her to," Coach Policelli explained.

The team definitely dominated the meet, scoring 149.25 overall. MIT placed first in the women's competition, beating out the sec-

ond place team, Penn State, by 4.7 points. MIT also took first on vault, with a tie from Sharpe and Kuraman, and first, second, and seventh on bars (Sharpe, Kuraman and Sanneman, respectively). By no surprise, the team also took first and fifth on beam (Kuraman and Sanneman, respectively), second and fourth on floor (Sharpe and Kuraman, respectively), and first, second, and sixth in the all-around (Kuraman, Sharpe, and Sanneman, respectively). Each girl brought her strength to the competition and contributed to a great meet. Kuraman scored a 38.525 all-around, setting a new record for MIT.

In reflecting on this past season, Ginacelli expressed, "I couldn't be happier or more proud of the way our team came together and really shined on the national stage," he said. "We're looking forward to another successful year next year."



Lindsay M. Sanneman '14 performs a back handspring on the beam.

Taking rugby to prom





(Top) Steph Sallum '12 passes to a teammate during the 5th Annual Prom Dress Rugby Tournament on April 28 at Briggs' Field. (Bottom) Sophie Lee '12 tackles a Brandeis player at the same event. This event provides an interesting feminine twist on a traditionally rough sport and, in its fifth incarnation, drew teams from many surrounding schools.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Wednesday, May 2

Baseball vs. Rhode Island College

4 p.m., Briggs Field



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